

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6455

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR'S WHITE HOUSE IMPRESSIONS
PROMINENTLY REPORTED

1. SUNDAY EDITION OF EL NACIONAL, OCTOBER 27, HEADLINED STATEMENT THAT VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM IS FUNDAMENTAL TO U.S. MARKET FOR NEXT 10 YEARS. UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINES MINISTRY OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR MIGUEL ANGEL BURELLI RIVAS HAD ENCOUNTERED A CLIMATE OF COOPERATION AND AMPLE UNDERSTANDING REGARDING PETROLEUM IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE MADE KNOWN TO BURELLI THE U.S. DESIRE TO ASSURE THAT VENEZUELA REMAINS A SECURE SOURCE OF PETROLEUM AT LEAST UNTIL 1985.

2. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IS PREOCCUPIED WITH HOW TO ESTABLISH PLANS FOR BEST COOPERATION WITH VENEZUELA IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE A NORMAL SUPPLY OF VENEZUELAN PETROLEUM. IN GENERAL, WASHINGTON WILL ENDEAVOR TO MODIFY ITS LATIN AMERICAN POLICY, BUT VIEW WITH SPECIAL INTEREST ITS RELATIONS WITH CARACAS. THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT NEW STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ACHIEVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, OF WHICH THE CONTINUED SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM FROM VENEZUELA IS

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FUNDAMENTAL.

3. SAME SOURCES REPORT THAT THE UNITED STATES IS INCLINED TO TAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS, SUCH AS RECOGNIZING THE HAVANA REGIME, TOGETHER WITH MEXICO, (SIC) VENEZUELA, AND COSTA RICA, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY FISSURE WITH THE OAS. DURING THE LAST FEW WEEKS THE SOURCES REPORT A FAVORABLE CHANGE, IN EFFECT RAPPROCHEMENT, TOWARDS THE LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO THE CLIMATE OF COLLABORATION AND INTEREST NOTED BY THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY.

4. ON OCTOBER 24 THE SAME NEWSPAPER FEATURED A REPORT RELEASED BY FEA WITH THE FINDING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE ITS DEPENDENCE ON PETROLEUM IMPORTED FROM OPEC COUNTRIES FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS.

5. EMBSSY COMMENT: ABOVE STORY, VAGUELY ATTRIBUTED TO GOV SOURCES, TOGETHER WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ DAILY PRESS INTERVIEW OF OCTOBER 22 REPORTED IN CARACAS 10550 AND 10504, ARE CLEAR SIGNALS OF GOV INTEREST IN NEW DIALOGUE. MCCLINTOCK

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